

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide, wherein the consisting of an amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2; ;
- (b) an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;
- (c) an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and
- (d) a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.

2 (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide, wherein the comprising an amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2; ;
- (b) an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;
- (c) an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and
- (d) a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.

3. (currently amended) An isolated antibody that selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2.

4-23. (canceled)

24. (new) An isolated antibody that selectively binds to a polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (new) The antibody of claim 3, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

26. (new) The antibody of claim 24, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

27. (new) The antibody of claim 3, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

28. (new) The antibody of claim 24, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

29. (new) The antibody of claim 25, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

30. (new) The antibody of claim 26, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

31. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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32. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
33. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
34. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
35. (new) An isolated antibody fragment that selectively binds to a polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the antibody fragment comprises a fragment selected from the group consisting of:
- a) an Fab fragment;
 - b) an F(ab')₂ fragment; and
 - c) an Fv fragment.
36. (new) An isolated antibody fragment that selectively binds to a polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the antibody fragment comprises a fragment selected from the group consisting of:
- a) an Fab fragment;
 - b) an F(ab')₂ fragment; and
 - c) an Fv fragment.
37. (new) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
38. (new) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.